

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

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TAGS: EAID, BEXP, ELEC, EMES, OEXC, SY

SUBJECT: SYRIAN DESIRE FOR ERTS PHOTOS AND INTERPRETATION
EQUIPMENT

1 SUMMARY. SYRIAN RETURNEES FROM ERTS INTERNATIONAL VISITORS PROGRAM ARE VERY KEEN ON ERTS APPLICATION TO SYRIAN GEOLOGICAL, HYDROLOGICAL AND AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH PROBLEMS. SYRIAN MINISTRIES NOW URGING US TO SUPPLY FURTHER ERTS PHOTOS AND LIST OF INTERPRETATION EQUIPMENT. ACTION REQUESTED: DEPT CONSULT WITH APPROPRIATE ERTS-RELATED AGENCIES AND CABLE US REPLY ON QUESTIONS NOTED BELOW. END SUMMARY.

2. NADER NABULSI OF SYRIAN MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND MINERAL RESOURCES, RETURNED TO DAMASCUS HIGHLY ENTHUSIASTIC OVER ERTS APPLICATION TO RESEARCH AND STUDY OF SYRIAN DEVELOPMENTAL PROBLEMS. HIS DEPUTY MINISTER, DR. BURHAN ATA'EI, HAS ASKED ECON/CML OFFICER TO INQUIRE ABOUT AVAILABILITY FROM USG SOURCES OF LARGE PHOTOS OF ENTIRE AREA OF SYRIA TAKEN FROM SATELLITES. HE POINTED TO FOUR-BY-FIVE FOOT PHOTO OF FRANCE ON HIS WALL AND SAID FRENCH GEOPHYSICAL COMPANY WAS OFFERING TO SELL TO MINISTRY SIMILAR PHOTOS OF SYRIA TAKEN FROM SATELLITES. ATA'EI WOULD PREFER TO HAVE PHOTOS FROM ORIGINAL SOURCE WHICH HE BELIEVES TO BE USG.

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3. ATA'EI AND PETMIN DR. ADNAN MUSTAFA ARE RECEIVING GOOD

NUMBER OF OFFERS FROM AMERICAN PETROLEUM AND MINERAL FIRMS (DAMASCUS 645). WE BELIEVE PRESENTATION TO MINISTRY AND HIGHER LEVEL-OFFICIALS OF LARGE PHOTO OF ALL OF SYRIA WOULD COMPLIMENT BOTH OUR COMMERCIAL EFFORTS AND OUR RECENTLY SIGNED A.I.D. AGREEMENTS WITH SYRIA. WOULD APPRECIATE CABLE REPLY ON AVAILABILITY OF SUCH PHOTOS. IF AVAILABLE, SUGGEST FIVE COPIES BE SENT IN STRONG CARD-BOARD TUBE TO BE PUT WITH LUGGAGE OF NEXT A.I.D. TDY TRAVELER TO DAMASCUS, OR CARRIED WITH NEXT S/S-S TRAVELER TO SYRIA.

4. ATA'EI AND DEPUTY MINISTER OF STATE FOR PLANNING AFFAIRS ISSAM HILOU (AT DIRECTION OF DEPUTY PM HAYDAR) HAVE ALSO SPECIFICALLY ASKED US ABOUT ERTS INTER-
PRETATION EQUIPMENT. NABULSI DEFINES THIS EQUIPMENT AS VIDEO, DIGITAL AND OTHER EQUIPMENT USED TO PROCESS AND INTERPRET ERTS PHOTOGRAPHY. ATA'EI AND HILOU WOULD LIKE A LIST OF SUCH EQUIPMENT, MANUFACTURER AND PRICES. WE CANNOT DEFINE THIS REQUEST MORE PRECISELY, BUT WOULD HOPE USG EXPERTS COULD DEVELOP AND CABLE US SUCH A LIST OF NECESSARY BASIC EQUIPMENT FOR ERTS INTERPRETATION.
MURPHY

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